

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(currently amended) An air filtration plant, comprising:

a filter cartridge ~~(4)~~ fitted with filter sleeves ~~(6)~~, ~~which~~ said sleeves ~~(6)~~ are arranged vertically, and held stretched by appropriate stretching means ~~(16, 17)~~ between two supporting structures ~~(12, 13)~~, a closed lower end of said sleeves being attached to a lower one of said two supporting structures by a first fastener, and ~~the~~ an open upper end (15) of said sleeves (6) being attached to openings (40) provided in an upper supporting structure of said two supporting structures, by a second fastener, said upper supporting structure being (13) in the form of a plate fitted with said openings, and the lower end (14) of said sleeves (6) being attached to a lower supporting structure (12),

wherein the upper end of the sleeves is fitted with a structural element that increases the grip thereof, manually or mechanically,

~~characterised in that it includes~~ wherein the stretching means (16, 17) for fastening fasten the filter sleeves ~~(6) which~~

and are ~~suited~~ configured to enable tensioning of said sleeves ~~(6)~~
at the upper ends thereof ~~(15)~~, and

wherein said second fastener comprises a separate add-on
member that is configured to be located within said sleeves below
said upper end when the sleeves have been attached to the lower
supporting structure and have been stretched to a stretched
position, said add-on member being configured to hold said sleeves
in said stretched position by clamping against an internal contour
of the openings of the upper supporting structure.

2. (currently amended) A The plant according to claim 1,
~~characterised in that it includes means (17) for fastening the~~
~~filter sleeves (6) at the upper supporting structure (13), of~~
wherein the add-on member ~~(38)~~ type is in the form of a ductile
~~ring, which add on member (38) is designed for being located~~
~~within said sleeves (6) once the latter have been attached to the~~
~~lower supporting structure (12), and stretched, so as to hold~~
~~said sleeves (6) in this stretched condition by clamping against~~
~~the contour (41) of the openings (40) of said upper supporting~~
~~structure (13).~~

3. (currently amended) A The plant according to claim 2,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ductile ring ~~(38)~~ includes an
annular groove ~~(39)~~, provided on the external contour thereof,

~~intended~~ configured for being embedded on the internal contour ~~(41)~~ of the openings ~~(40)~~ of the upper supporting structure ~~(13)~~.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A The plant according to claim 4 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ wherein the upper end of the filter sleeves ~~(6) whereof the upper end (15)~~ is fitted with ~~an~~ said structural element in the form of a rigid collar ~~(36)~~ for easier gripping ~~thereof in particular for~~ to provide a reliable tension thereof.

6. (currently amended) A The plant according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ wherein a portion of the upper end of the filter sleeves ~~(6) whereof the upper end portion (37),~~ ~~delineated~~ is delimited by two rigid collars ~~(35 and 36),~~ ~~is~~ generally truncated in having a frustum shape, ~~the~~ a diameter of the ~~end~~ rigid collar ~~(36) being~~ at the upper end of the sleeves is greater than ~~the~~ a diameter of the openings ~~(40)~~ of the plate ~~(13)~~.

7. (currently amended) A The plant according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ wherein the lower end of the filter sleeves ~~(6) whereof the lower end (14)~~ is provided with a bottom cup ~~(20)~~ fitted with a protruding rod ~~(21)~~ comprising a

catching element ~~(22)~~, ~~which~~ said catching element ~~(22)~~ is ~~designed~~ configured for co-operating with a supporting profile ~~(23)~~ of matching shape, provided at the lower supporting structure ~~(12)~~.

8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The plant according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that it includes a~~ wherein the lower supporting structure ~~(12)~~ is fitted with at least one supporting profile ~~(23)~~, in the form of folded sheet metal, formed of a central part ~~(25)~~ extending vertically, and ~~whereof the~~ an upper end ~~(26)~~ of said central part is extended by a return element ~~(29)~~, extending over ~~the~~ a whole length thereof, ~~which~~ said return element ~~(29)~~ is fitted with several open slots ~~(32)~~ each ~~letting~~ configured to receive there through ~~a~~ said rod ~~(21)~~ for catching a sleeve and locating the catching element ~~(22)~~ of said rod ~~(21)~~.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The plant according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that it includes a~~ wherein the lower supporting structure ~~(12)~~ is fitted with said at least one supporting profile ~~(23)~~, comprising ~~an upper~~ said return element ~~(29)~~ formed of two parts ~~(30, 31)~~ forming a dihedron, one of said parts ~~(30)~~ extending at right angle or substantially at right angle from the upper end ~~(26)~~ of the central part ~~(25)~~, and the other of said parts ~~(31)~~ being tilted downwards, ~~which~~ said ~~return element~~ ~~(29)~~ is fitted with a plurality of open slots ~~(32) letting through a~~

~~rod (21) for catching a sleeve, the hooking element (22) being designed for a location~~ configured beneath said horizontal part ~~(30).~~

10. (currently amended) A tensioning tool for a filter sleeve for an air filtration plant according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising:

- a seating element ~~(46)~~, configured to rest on the upper supporting structure,
- a means ~~(47)~~ for stretching the open upper end ~~(15)~~ of the sleeve ~~(6)~~, and
- a means ~~(48)~~ for manoeuvring the stretching means ~~(47)~~.

11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The tool according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the manoeuvring means ~~(48)~~ assist mechanically the driving of the stretching means ~~(47)~~.

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The tensioning tool according to claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the manoeuvring means ~~(48)~~ consist of at least one gas, pneumatic or hydraulic jack-operated device, ~~which~~ said device is arranged between the seating element ~~(46)~~ and the stretching means ~~(47)~~ so as to facilitate, during the deployment thereof, the manoeuvre of said stretching means ~~(47)~~.

13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The tool according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the stretching means ~~(47)~~ consist of a U-shaped element ~~(65)~~ intended for location configured to be placed beneath an said structural element in the form of a collar ~~(36)~~ provided at the upper end ~~(15)~~ of the sleeves ~~(6)~~.

14. (currently amended) A process for assembling a filter sleeve within an air filtration plant according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it consists~~ comprising:

- ~~—in~~ attaching the lower end ~~(14)~~ of the filter sleeve ~~(6)~~, via ~~an appropriate fastening means (16)~~ said first fastener, to the lower supporting structure ~~(12)~~,
- ~~—in~~ tensioning the filter sleeve ~~(6)~~ by a vertical upward traction, and
- ~~—in~~ attaching the upper end ~~(15)~~ of the filter sleeve ~~(6)~~ to the upper supporting structure ~~(13)~~ via ~~an appropriate fastening means (17)~~ said second fastener.

15. (currently amended) A filter sleeve ~~pour~~ for the air filtration plant according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising a hooking member ~~(22)~~ at the lower end thereof ~~(14)~~ of the filter sleeve, and a said structural element ~~(36)~~ in the shape of a rigid collar at the upper end thereof ~~(15)~~, for easier gripping thereof.

16. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The filter sleeve according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein the filter sleeve includes an upper end portion ~~(37) generally truncated in having~~ a frustum shape, delineated delimited by two rigid collars (35 and 36), said upper rigid collar and a lower rigid collar, the upper rigid collar ~~(36)~~ having a diameter greater than that of the lower rigid collar ~~(35)~~.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The tool according to claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the stretching means ~~(47)~~ consist of a U-shaped element ~~(65) intended for location~~ configured to be located beneath ~~an~~ said structural element in the form of a collar ~~(36)~~ provided at the upper end ~~(15)~~ of the sleeves ~~(6)~~.

19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The tool according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the stretching means ~~(47)~~ consist of a U-shaped element ~~(65) intended for location~~ configured to be located beneath ~~an~~ said structural element in the form of a collar ~~(36)~~ provided at the upper end ~~(15)~~ of the sleeves ~~(6)~~.

20. (new) An air filtration plant, comprising:

a filter cartridge having a plurality of vertically arranged filter sleeves, said filter sleeves being held in a

stretched position between two supporting structures, a closed lower end of said filter sleeves being attached to a lower one of said two supporting structures by a first fastener, and an open upper end of said filter sleeves being attached to openings provided in an upper supporting structure of said two supporting structures, by a second fastener, said upper supporting structure being a plate having said openings,

wherein an uppermost end of the sleeves is fitted with a grip increasing element, and

wherein said second fastener comprises a separate add-on member that is configured to be within said sleeves, below said uppermost end, when the sleeves have been attached to the lower supporting structure and have been stretched to said stretched position, said add-on member being configured to hold said sleeves in said stretched position by clamping against an internal contour of the openings of the upper supporting structure.